



BLM News Release

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ■ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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For Additional Information

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Comment Period Extended for Draft EIS on Copper Flat Copper Mine Project

Las Cruces, NM – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has extended the public comment period another 45 days for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Copper Flat Copper Mine Project (Project). With this extension, the public will have until March 4, 2016 to submit their comments to BLM.

The BLM has prepared the Draft EIS in conjunction with its four Cooperating Agencies: the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, New Mexico Environment Department, New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, and New Mexico Office of the State Engineer.

The New Mexico Copper Corporation (Copper Corporation) is seeking approval from the BLM to reestablish a poly-metallic mine and processing facility located near Hillsboro, New Mexico. The 2,190-acre project would utilize BLM-managed public land and private property, and would produce copper, gold, silver, and molybdenum. The Project would provide Copper Corporation access to conduct mining activities in Sierra County on public land, leading to the extraction and processing of copper ore.

The Proposed Action is to approve a project that would process 17,500 tons per day of copper ore over a mine operations period of 16 years, resulting in 100 million tons of ore processed over the life of the mine. One alternative considered in the EIS would approve a project that would process 25,000 tons per day of copper ore over a mine operations period of 11 years, resulting in 103 million tons of ore processed over the life of the mine. A second alternative (the preferred alternative) considered in the EIS would approve a project that would process 30,000 tons per day of copper ore over a mine operations period of 12 years, resulting in 125 million tons of ore processed over the life of the mine.

With the release of the Draft EIS, the BLM initially opened the comment period for 45 days from December 6, 2015 to January 19, 2016. However since that timeframe fell within the busy holiday season, BLM is adding an additional 45 days to ensure the public has ample time and opportunity to submit their comments on the Project by March 4, 2016.

The Draft EIS can be viewed at: www.blm.gov/nm/copperflateis. In addition, the website has the Project information presented at the two BLM public meetings held in Hillsboro and Truth or Consequences, New Mexico on December 16 and 17. The public can also contact the BLM Project Manager Doug Haywood, 575-525-4498 or dhaywood@blm.gov to ask questions on the Project or the Draft EIS.

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The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2014, the BLM generated \$5.2 billion in receipts from public lands.